

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-40. (CANCELED)

41. (NEW) A method of operating a node of a telecommunications system, the node comprising a switch core, the switch core comprising a buffer matrix having one buffer memory per crosspoint to which cells having differing priority classes are written; the method comprising:

providing an indication that a high priority cell is in a queue awaiting writing to the buffer memory at a crosspoint blocked by a low priority cell;

emptying the blocked crosspoint in response to the indication.

42. (NEW) The method of claim 41, further comprising increasing the priority of the low priority cell in response to the indication.

43. (NEW) The method of claim 41, further comprising detecting the indication in a management cell received at the switch core.